



Town of Arlington, Massachusetts
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06/07/2011 Minutes

VISION 2020 ENVIRONMENT TASK GROUP
JUNE 7, 2011 MEETING-approved, Sept.6, 2011

SPY POND COMMITTEE
Town Hall Annex, First Floor

In attendance: Brad Barber, Bill Eykamp, Jacob Friis, Joey Glushko, Jane Howard, Elizabeth Karpati, Bob Noyes, Stroker Rogovin, Dick Terry.

Facilitator: Jacob Friis Minutes: Elizabeth Karpati

Next meetings: 7:30 p.m. Tues. Sept. 6, Oct. 4, Nov. 1, Dec. 6. Town Hall Annex, first floor.

The minutes of the April meeting were accepted as presented.

There was no business meeting in May. Instead there was a presentation of "Spy Pond Stories" – reminiscences by several people about their activities on and around the pond over the years -- which generated a lot of positive feedback.

Trails Day on May 7 brought out 45 volunteers, including 13 from the Arlington-Belmont crew, to clean up and remove invasive plants along the Rt. 2 path. The crew cleared the entire large patch of oriental bittersweet from the chain-link fence near its Pleasant Street end, except for a small area left to protect a nest which a robin had built in it. Jane e-mailed invitations to all volunteers to the Vision 2020 year-end celebration, which will be held at the newly planted habitat garden at the Reservoir on June 9.

MassHighway has repaved the deteriorated path in recent weeks.

Phragmites: Brad has found some regrowth in the Kelwyn Manor Park area, so some more spraying will be needed this fall. That would damage or destroy anything planted this spring, so planting of desirable species will have to wait till next year.

On Elizabeth Island there has been little regrowth but greenbrier is growing on the south side. The dead reeds that were not cut down will probably fall by themselves. Anything on the island will have to be done in cooperation with the Land Trust, which is concerned about liability if work is done by volunteers. The permit for treatment expires in 2014.

Egg addling was done in April. Two clutches of five goslings each have been seen; also five cygnets.

The rain garden plan will go before the Con Com in July. The garden is to be 150-200 square feet, more of a display of plants suitable for wet areas than strictly a rain garden. It is to be planted in September and volunteers will have to be recruited.

Stroker suggested that we should use electronic media for membership recruitment – e.g., get some high school students to create a Facebook page.

The four designs for the public art display on the Boys and Girls Club wall have been selected.

Town Day will be September 17. We need a fresh look for our display and will ask Steve Ricci to initiate "brainstorming by e-mail".

We decided to cancel the meeting that had been scheduled for August 2.